



Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE)

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about procedure: (319) 221-8500

What is Transesophageal Echocardiography?

Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) is a test that allows your doctor to record images of your heart from inside your esophagus, or food pipe. Since the esophagus lies just behind the heart, TEE may produce clearer pictures of the heart's movement than would standard echocardiography taken from outside the chest. During TEE, harmless sound waves bounce (echo) off your heart. These sound waves create images of your heart as it pumps blood through the valves and chambers.

Why should I have a TEE?

An echo is very safe and painless. The test results help the doctor plan your treatment and any other tests that are needed.

Preparation:

Please review with your doctor or your doctor's nurse.

- Don't eat or drink 6 hours before the test.
- Ask your doctor if you should take your usual medications that day.
- Bring a list of your current medications to the procedure.
- Arrange to have someone accompany you. They will need to listen to instructions and drive you home. It's important that someone stay with you for 24 hours following the exam.
- Please bring photo ID.

Procedure:

After you arrive for your TEE, you'll be asked to undress from the waist up and put on a hospital gown. Small pads (electrodes) are placed on your chest to record your heartbeat. Your blood pressure is also monitored. Your throat is sprayed with an anesthetic to numb it. You may be given a mild sedative through

an IV (intravenous) line in your arm to help you relax. You may also be given oxygen. If you wear dentures, you'll need to remove them. Then you'll be asked to lie on your left side.

A flexible tube about the size of your little finger is inserted into your mouth and as you swallow, the tube is slowly guided into your esophagus. The tube is lubricated to make it slide easily. At the tip of the tube is a small probe that produces sound waves. The probe may be moved, but it shouldn't be painful or interfere with your breathing. The test usually takes 20 to 40 minutes.

Plan to allow 3 hours from arrival to the time you can leave. You will not be able to eat or drink for approximately 2 hours following the test. Instructions will be given at the time of discharge.

Outpatient Registration:

Please park in the Mercy Parking ramp located at 8th Avenue and 8th Street SE. Enter the hospital at the South entrance on ground floor. Proceed to the Non-Invasive Cardiology department.

Your appointment date and time: